

DAPTC Towns & Larger Parishes Meeting - 22nd February 2019

Chief Executives Report – Hilary Trevorah

- At the beginning of the Shadow Dorset Council meeting on 24th January, Hilary made a statement concerning on the involvement of parish and town councils in the consideration of planning applications. Subsequently the Shadow Dorset Council voted to amend the relevant part of the new Dorset Council's constitution.
- Three new local councils (Weymouth Town Council, Christchurch Town Council and Highcliffe & Walkford Community Council) are being created to coincide with the introduction of unitary councils for Dorset. DAPTC will be assisting and supporting them as much as possible.
- The Communication Team for information on Dorset Council welcomes feedback on the newsletter to parish and town councils, including ideas for future articles. This can be given at shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk
- Information was given on the election of members of the DAPTC Executive Committee. Cllr Lindsey Dedden is the NALC representative for Dorset.
- The DAPTC training schedule for courses after the May election will be publicised soon. This will include training for new councillors and chairs, refreshers for existing councillors and clerks training. It is hoped to repeat the Planning training held on 21st February which was sold out.

Dorset Councils Partnership Report – Stephen Hill

- The senior team for the new Dorset Council has been appointed and the budget set.
- Staff consultation is in progress about transitional structures from April to June and TUPE transfers to new unitary or local councils.
- At the moment the planning authorities use different system for members of the public to search and comment on planning applications. It is thought that the new Dorset Council will procure and implement a common system but this will take up to 2 years. The new areas agreed for planning committees do not correspond to the old planning authorities boundaries

Chairman's Report – Chris Turner

- Transition to the new unitary councils is the main concern at the moment. So far there has been little feedback on the way parish and town councils will communicate and integrate with the unitaries.

NALC Report – Lindsey Dedden

- Lobbying of MPs at the next meeting in March has been cancelled because of Brexit. Papers on Peer Review will be a future agenda item.

Member's items

- Corfe Mullen has held an open day for new parish councillors.
- Colehill is recruiting a new parish clerk

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- Verwood gave information on a new councillors event at Morrisons, mineral extraction issues at Horton and Purple Haze, possible charging at the Somerley HRC, monthly litter picks, recruitment of a new assistant to the Town Clerk,
- Lytchett Matravers: Dorset County Council are running a Primary School Street Design Project with UK charity Sustrans
- Blandford Town Council reported that there is a planning application for the NDDC offices which are for sale. They have submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to NDDC. They have employed a Market Manager having taken over the market from NDDC – the market is going from strength to strength.
- Gillingham have a new clerk
- Dorchester are making improvements in the ‘heritage quarter’ of the town with WDDC support. The museum is closed for 18 months for refurbishment but there are some exhibits at a ‘pop up’ in Brewery Square. Arrangements have been made for some temporary continued use of St.Osmunds Leisure Centre which has gone out of business.
- Wimborne Town Hall has incorporated additional accommodation for reception staff. Asset transfers are ongoing. The EDDC buildings at Furzehill have not yet been sold
- Swanage reported that half their councillors are not standing again in May. They held an open day for new councillors with disappointing attendance. The new council depot is open with a new operations Manager.
- Beaminster have a new logo designed by a new councillor. Works are progressing in the square and on a new play area.
- Chickerell: a new Youth Club is to be built.
- Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council reported that a youth councillor is doing a survey of vandalism problems at the skate park. They have joined the Lytchett Bay partnership whose other members include the new PBC unitary and the DWT. Most of their councillors are standing for election in May.
- West Moors are holding a community event on the Village Green to mark Commonwealth Day on 11th March. Local residents have obtained an ‘awards for all’ grant for a BMX regeneration project.
- Wareham: the Middle School has been demolished and the site was to become a health hub but the county council want to use it as temporary housing for essential staff. There are issues over pedestrian access from north of the town because the railway level crossing has been declared most dangerous in country by Network Rail. DCC wanted to put a footbridge on the road bridge but the road bridge is listed and can’t be altered.
- Ferndown have held a meeting for new prospective councillors which was attended by 12 people. Improvements to Fryers Field continue with funding from the Heathland Mitigation Fund; phase 1 is the pavilion, phase 2 will be children’s play; probably a skate or wheel park. There is a cycle path in Ham Lane. They are trying to start a market in April, looking for volunteers to litter pick and trying to get a 30mph speed limit as far as Longham